

fruit has sufficient edible quality to be available at least as stock food. 'The only other oaks that approximate it in size', according to Dr. William Trelease of the University of Illinois, who directed the attention of the American Genetic Association to the species, 'are a close relative, *Q. strombocarpa*, of the same region, and a Guatemalan black oak, *Q. skinneri*, the latter apparently an equally large tree, and with acorns two inches in diameter but presumably bitter or astringent like our own black acorns.' The nuts of the *Q. insignis* are usually about two inches in diameter but may reach two and a half inches. Their weight is from 50 to 65 grams each. In view of its range, the tree is naturally to be supposed unsuited to a temperate climate, but Dr. Purpus writes, 'I think it a very useful tree which could be raised in Florida, Cuba, Porto Rico, etc.' If it is found to be well adapted, it is possible that native species of oaks could in some cases be grafted over with the more productive new one, thus yielding a large crop of acorns with very little trouble or care. Hybridizing experiments should also be tried with some of the best North American oaks, with a view to seeing whether the size of their acorns cannot be increased." (Journal of Heredity, vol. 5, no. 9, p. 406.)

*Tamarix pentandra* Pallas. (Tamaricaceae.) 39692. Seeds of a tamarisk from the Tiflis Botanic Garden, Tiflis, The Caucasus. Presented by the Director. 'A deciduous shrub or small tree, ultimately from 12 to 15 feet high, or upwards, with long, slender, plumose branches. Leaves very small, pointed; the largest one-eighth inch long, arranged at intervals along the flowering shoots; the smallest one-fifth as large, and crowded fifty or more to the inch. Flowers arranged densely in slender, sometimes branching racemes, 1 to 5 inches long, each tiny blossom one-eighth inch across, rosy pink; they cover the whole terminal part of the current year's shoot, which is thus transformed during August into a huge plume-like panicle of blossom as much as 3 feet long. Sepals, petals, and stamens, all five in number. Native of southeastern Europe and Asia Minor, especially on the banks of tidal rivers. This beautiful tamarisk is quite hardy, and one of the most pleasing of late-flowering shrubs. It should be planted in groups large enough for its soft rosy plumes to produce an effect in the distance. To obtain it at its best, it is necessary to cut it back every winter almost to the old wood. It then sends up the long slender branches which flower for six weeks or so in August and September. It is propagated with the greatest ease by making cuttings, 6 to 9 inches long, in early winter of the stoutest part of the season's growth, and putting them in the ground out-of-